

of birds meeting their end at Jatinga, Haflong. It is difficult to imagine what area was covered by this wind but the number of birds was certainly very large.

After my return to Bombay I have been turning over the whole matter in my mind but have not been able to decide on anything definite to put on record. Some time back however I mentioned this matter to Wg. Cdr. Qaiser Ali, who had recently retired from Air India. He mentioned that it was a well-known fact that all winds approaching a storm or whirlwind in the northern hemisphere, when given the right physical conditions blew in an anti-clock-wise direction. The evidence from Malshej Ghat showed when the wind got to the edge of the Ghat, it behaved

in this manner and the birds carried by it would make for the nearest lights which would be the only indication of safety to doves, quails, rails, and other ground loving birds. These would, if and when they missed the light and got swept beyond the edge of the Ghat, would redouble on their tracks and hit the lights from the opposite direction.

This seem to be a simple explanation of a mystery made more mysterious by planning from afar.

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23. COLOUR CHANGE OF TONGUE BY FAT-TAILED GECKO *EUBLEPHARIS MACULARIUS*

On 31 January 1994, while digging stones in Kamalnath Forest Block in Udaipur District for making a rubble masonry wall around a plantation, labourers noticed a strange animal under a stone. I was informed and I identified it as the Fat-Tailed Gecko *Eublepharis macularius*. It was a subadult individual, still possessing the characteristic coloration of an immature individual.

When I forced it to leave its hideout, it raised its body on all four legs and opened its mouth widely. I could see its tongue easily. Initially its colour was pinkish-white but soon its distal portion became deep-pink. The lower portion of its tongue remained normal, i.e. there was no change in colour. I caught

hold of the animal in my hands and observed the phenomenon carefully. The colour disappeared and re-appeared many times within five minutes.

This coloration may have been due to increased blood flow to the tongue tip. Perhaps this colour change of the tip of the tongue is a threatening posture of the animal.

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